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The Case of the Prince of Wales.

It now seems tolerably plain that the public disapproval of the Prince of Wales's conduct in the Tranby Croft affair is deep and widespread, and is beginning to threaten serious consequences. As we have previously said, some of the criticisms of his behavior are without any solid foundation; but there are three points as to which he has laid himself open to animadversion, if not to legal penalties.

In the first place, the Prince of Wales has admitted under oath in a court of justice that he and his companions at Tranby Croft were engaged in a species of gambling which is illegal under the statutes of the United Kingdom. For this offense there is a penalty provided, and if the laws of England are to be impartially administered, there is no reason why the Prince should be exempted from the crown, who after all is but a subject, should not be allowed with impunity to confess himself a law breaker. The English Radicals, who have determined to move in the business, cannot logically do less than demand prosecution of all the confessed participants in the gambling at Tranby Croft. Indeed, unless the statute against gambling is to be openly scouted as a dead letter, and this cannot be done without irremediably offending the whole body of English Non-conformists: the Prince of Wales seems to deserve to be dealt with rigorously, seeing that he is by his own admission an habitual offender, so addicted to bacchanal that he carries the needful apparatus with him in his visits to his friends. The demand for the enforcement of the act against gambling may not in this instance be enforced, but it undoubtedly represents the convictions and sentiments of the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Congregational communions, which, collectively, constitute a very large proportion of the English middle class. To alienate the sympathies of this class may well seem a deplorable calamity to the sincere upholders of the principle of monarchy in England.

The other motion to be introduced by Radicals in the House of Commons will doubtless be pressed more firmly, and, however it may be met by the Government, can scarcely fail to leave the Prince in an awkward predicament. The Secretary of State will be invited to say what action he purposes to take in regard to Field Marshall the Prince of Wales, Gen. OWEN WILLIAMS, and Lieut. BERNARD LESTER, who signed a document permitting a man believed by them to have been a gambler to remain an officer of the British army. The Secretary will also be requested to state whether the three officers just named, by pledging themselves to secrecy in the Tranby Croft case, did not break the army regulations regarding such a matter to be brought immediately to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief. There is no doubt that the Prince of Wales broke the regulations on the subject, which it is customary to enforce with the utmost rigor, and that by such violation he has given grave offence to those who have at heart the honor of the British military and naval services. It is the view of the affair taken by army and naval officers which, to a large extent, accounts for the unfriendly tone of the comments on the Prince of Wales's conduct in many of the Tory journals as well as in the London Times. There is still another aspect of the affair which is not favorable to the Prince of Wales, considered as a man of honor and a gentleman. We do not question that Sir WILLIAM GORDON-CUMMING was guilty of cheating; his behavior, when charged with the offence, can be explained upon no other theory. It is extremely doubtful, however, whether any jury would have convicted him on the evidence of his accusers, and the conclusive testimony against him was his written agreement never to play cards again. In return for that agreement, which stripped the unhappy man of all means of earning money, they would have bound themselves to absolute secrecy regarding his wrongdoing. The pledge was broken. Who broke it? With one exception, all the persons cognizant of the affair swore in the witness box that they had never divulged it to a human being. The exception was the Prince of Wales, who, significantly enough, was not questioned on the point by counsel on either side. We say significantly, because CUMMING had testified that he first learned that the promise of secrecy had been violated through Lady BROOKER who, on the platform at a railway station, taunted him with having been detected in cheating at cards. Now, there is no mystery whatever about the channel through which Lady BROOKER might have received the information. Did she receive it through that channel? The counsel, as we have said, refrained from putting the question. Did they know that the Prince of Wales had blabbed? It is certainly not easy to account for their obliging forbearance upon any other hypothesis. But if it be true that the Prince obtained from a friend a virtual confession of shameful behavior, and then, after giving a solemn pledge of secrecy, divulged the misdeed to the world, he is certainly not qualified to serve as a model of the conduct becoming an officer and a gentleman.

Altogether, the Prince of Wales must regret that he ever paid that visit to Tranby Croft. The loyalty of the Non-conformists will not survive the disclosure of his gambling habits, but what may grieve him still more is the reprobation of his brother officers. His willingness to connive at retaining a card sharper on the roll of the British army will not be readily condoned; and his reputation for trustworthiness will suffer unless he can manage to efface the deepening impression that he is himself responsible for the divulgence of a painful story.

American History and Government

We wish that some Phi Beta Kappa society or some other college association would ask the Hon. THOMAS ROOSEVELT to deliver an address upon the "Importance of a Knowledge of American History to Clerks."

He has devoted some attention to historical researches and has produced creditable historical and biographical writings; a Civil Service Commissioner ought to know a good deal about clerks in the classified civil service. The investigation which the Twenty-first district Republicans are making of the local Civil Service Examining Board has given him occasion to show his

belief in the value of a knowledge of American history to Government clerks. He expressed himself as satisfied that the civil-service examinations for candidates for clerkships were practical and satisfactory.

The present requirements are good spelling, legible writing, intelligence enough to write an original letter, familiarity with certain branches of arithmetic, and a slight knowledge of American history. A knowledge of American history is a very good knowledge for an American citizen to have, but why should it be required of a Government clerk? Is there some mysterious charm in American history so that even a slight knowledge of it makes a man better fitted to do the jobs set for a Government clerk? Will knowing the date of the battle of Bennington or the Mecklenburg Declaration make a man add a column of figures correctly or keep a cleaner set of books? Why will a man be the better clerk for knowing these things than for knowing how to play the piano or flourish a couple of fencers' swords? When did the civil service reformers get the notion that a Government clerk should have a slight knowledge of American history? Is it the custom of private business firms to employ no clerks that have not at least a slight acquaintance with American history? Does Mr. ROOSEVELT examine candidates for the post of cook puncher on his ranch in American history? Can he tell at this moment when slavery was introduced into the colonies? Can Mr. Commissioner THOMPSON give the name of the last royal Governor of South Carolina? Can Mr. Commissioner LAMAR give the date of the foundation of the city of New York? Will these gentlemen or anybody else inform us why a slight knowledge of American history should be required of a Government clerk or any other kind of clerk? As an historian Mr. ROOSEVELT is best qualified to give the information sought. Will he not do it when he has squelched the dissatisfaction in the Twenty-first district? The commercial world is even more deeply interested than the Government in getting good clerks.

The Loves of Men of Genius.

MR. THOMAS HITCHCOCK has just published a delightful book on the "Unhappy Loves of Men of Genius," and the Messrs. HARPER have issued the volume in a tasteful typographic form which well befits the delicacy of its subject and the literary grace of its treatment. Mr. HITCHCOCK is one of those men who can be truly described as a man of learning, even at the time when the time presses so much. What he knows he knows exactly and thoroughly; and, as the range of his study and information is wide, including many and various fields of thought and inquiry, the accuracy and the profundity of his knowledge are the more remarkable. He is one of the most learned and sagacious writers on finance at this day. He is also distinguished as a practical financier, of a judgment which is almost unerring. He was educated as a lawyer, and his associates at the Law School of Harvard, impressed by his high intellectual ability and his extraordinary grasp of legal principles, expected for him a career as a great jurist. But those very qualities made the routine of legal practice distasteful to him, and, as happily, he was able to turn whither he chose, he has found more grateful occupation in scientific and philosophic study and reflection touching the causes and influences which determine and affect the material conditions of human society, and mould and color its intellectual and spiritual development.

The subject which he treats in the beautiful volume published by the HARPERS has a peculiar charm and interest for Mr. HITCHCOCK, whose mind is of a poetic cast hardly less pronounced than his philosophic and severely intellectual character. Of all the forces affecting mankind, the passion or sentiment of love is the strongest, unless be religion; and even of religion love is an integral part. The two are interwoven in the whole history of the race, and in their manifestation they are closely similar. The ecstasy of the enraptured saint and the transports of the enamored lover are very much alike; and as religion grows more spiritual, love becomes more elevated. It is of this elevated love that Mr. HITCHCOCK treats in this volume with the delicacy and sympathy of an author capable of its fullest understanding and interpretation. At a time when even the loveliest women are pictured wearing a carnal and degrading lust only, he celebrates it as a poetic inspiration and a lofty and refining influence in the lives and characters of men of genius. He tells of the love of GIBSON and MME. NECKER, of Dr. JOHNSON and Mrs. TRALE, of GÖTTE and CHARLOTTE VON STEIN, of MOZART and ALOYSIA WEBER, of CAUVOT and an unknown divinity, and of EDWARD IRVING and JANE BAILEY WELSH, afterward the wife of THOMAS CARLYLE. In each of these cases both the men and the women were distinguished for their gifts and accomplishments, and in none was the sentiment manifested otherwise than in its purest form. It was respect, admiration, and friendship elevated and translated into exalted and poetic love. In the case of GIBSON it yielded eventually to selfish pride, but the unalloyed sentiment itself remained long in both his own mind and MME. NECKER's, if, indeed, it did not continue vital to the very end of their lives.

All the loves described by Mr. HITCHCOCK were unhappy in their consequences, so far as concerns the fruition of marriage, though in the men more especially they produced a profound effect extending through their whole careers and serving an important purpose in their development. Such sentiment is really created by men and women. It goes deeper and is higher, than the material instinct, and not love for the lover, being the overmastering passion in women. When women love men the most, the material quality most distinguishes their sentiment for them.

So far as Mr. HITCHCOCK's book teaches any definite lesson, the lesson may be that the ideal love of the man of genius, bred and fed by the imagination, is not likely ever to find satisfaction in matrimony. It can subsist only in the imagination; and that is the explanation of the frequency of unhappy marriages among men of genius. They loved not mortal women, but immortal divinities created by their poetic fancy. But the run of men are not men of genius. These rare beings are scattered singly and at long intervals in the history of the race. Usually the marriage of one man to one woman is the most successful of human compact and unions, and the results of the multitude of June weddings now occurring will bear renewed witness. Undoubtedly the sharper the critical development and the more sensitive and exacting the tastes under the influences of modern super-civilization, the more are the chances of discord; but even now the tendency to trail down so fine is restricted to the few, and they return to the mass more and more unlikely to marry at all.

The simple and perceptive style in which Mr. HITCHCOCK tells these stories of unhappy loves is not less admirable than the learning and the extensive reading and investigation which have enabled him to gather

the facts presented in a manner so engaging. His volume is an important contribution to literature, and it is of universal interest.

The Tin Plate Trust.

The Welsh tin plate combination, one of the most noticeable developments of recent business agitation, has decided to shut down, for the major part of it, during the coming July. According to the London Times's statement of a few weeks ago, about eighty per cent. of the tin plate manufacturers owned the agreement that constituted a "combine," as our anti-monopolists understand it, and the assent of the remainder was looked for. At any rate, the tin plate business is already enough of a trust for nearly fifty works to shut down in unison in order to squeeze the general product down to the dimensions of the most advantageous market.

The tariff, however, which according to anti-trust argument of the free trade sort, would naturally, if not necessarily, be the foundation of this British trust, happens to be in force in America. It is often a hard job to make the facts accord with the theory.

Thoughts on a Foundling Asylum.

It is a rare pleasure to find in the blue-covered magazine established by Uncle EVARTS a contribution from a literary Consul of the old-fashioned sort. The Reports in recent years have run mostly in the line of statistics and acid labular statements of trade. The cultivation of style for its own sake, the formulation in felicitous phrases of graceful and well-considered sentiment, have been too much neglected by the Consuls in their official communications to the Department of State. Give us back the literary Consul, and may his adjectives never wither!

Our very able and intelligent representative at Bordeaux, Mr. HORACE G. KNOWLES of Delaware, has recently visited the interesting institution established near that town in 1819 by Mademoiselle TARNIER for the reception of foundlings, and known as L'Hospice des Enfants Assistés. His impressions and reflections have been communicated to Secretary BLAINE, and published by the latter in the last number of Consular Reports. We need not apologize for reproducing in generous extracts the best parts of this notable essay on foundling asylums. Consul KNOWLES begins with a description:

"Facing the busy quay that traverses the western portion of the city of Bordeaux, and overlooking the fertile banks of the Garonne River on the opposite side, is a low, sombre building, the walls of which are of broken and crumbling masonry, and the roof of which is a mass of decayed and crumbling tiles. The structure possesses neither maintenance nor attraction, and a few tall poplar trees throwing their shadows across the portico scarcely lend charm to the picture. The entrance is reached by a minute and unimpressive staircase, and the entrance hall is a narrow, gloomy passage, the walls of which are of broken and crumbling masonry, and the roof of which is a mass of decayed and crumbling tiles. The structure possesses neither maintenance nor attraction, and a few tall poplar trees throwing their shadows across the portico scarcely lend charm to the picture. 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